

he passed up the straits and appeared before Constantinople, where he threw fire-arrows against the Imperial Palace at Damalia and laid a suburb in ashes; after which piece of bravado he returned to the open sea. His next exploit was to fall upon a Greek fleet which was bringing the tribute from Crete; after an indecisive fight, he made for Cape Malea, where he encountered the united fleets of Venice and the Empire in full force, According to a version which favours the Norman side, he sank or plundered nineteen galleys of the enemy, and followed the rest for some distance, Whatever the issue of these later fights, the Admiral's exploits had been brilliant; he had struck a blow at the very heart of the Greek Empire,

Louis meanwhile had landed on the Calabrian coast (^9th of July, 1149), While he waited to be rejoined by Eleanor^ whose galley had been wrecked at Palermo, the French King had a personal interview with Roger at Potenza (August probably)* Legend represents Louis as placing the crown on the Sicilian's head, and the French barons swearing to aid him against the false Greeks, Actually we know nothing of the negotiations; finally Roger escorted

Louis to **Ce-**
prano where he parted from him in the
friendliest
terms; the French King took his way
through the
Papal states, meeting Eugenius at
Tivoli,

Only the aftermath of the war was
left. Corfu
was at last reduced by hunger, and
Theodorus sur-
rendered on honourable terms; the
garrison were